

Alumna, faculty/staff members hone art skills in Big Apple

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Earlier this month, Alfred University faculty/staff members and artists Richard Thompson and Hope Zaccagni joined alumna Jax Deluca for the New York Foundation for the Arts' (NYFA) MARK program. At various locations throughout New York City, these three joined 63 other visual artists in learning entrepreneurial skills for working artists, networking, public presentations and gallery going. The group included painters, photographers, sculptors, and mixed media artists who have been meeting on a regular basis during the six-month NYFA program. They met in groups of 10-12 people located in six separate New York regions; Buffalo, Rochester, Troy, Huntington, Hudson, and Ithaca. The recent New York City retreat was the first time all 66 artists met after receiving NYFA staff guidance in such areas as writing artists statements, project descriptions, and winning letters to galleries and curators, fine tuning portfolios, goal setting, public presentation, and the art of finding elusive grants, residencies, and opportunities for public exposure. Thompson served as dean of the School of Art and Design from 1997 to 2004, and as professor of painting until this last spring. He retired in May to concentrate on his studio career. In addition to this program, his work was the subject of a one-person survey of work since 2000 at the Longview Museum of Fine Art, in Longview, TX. He will have a one-person show at the Parchman Stremmel Gallery in San Antonio, TX. There will also be new work included in a group show at the Kellogg Museum of Art at California State University in Pomona, CA. Zaccagni, a graduate from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a bachelor of arts degree in fine art-painting and sculpture, spent the summer following graduation at the Penland School of Crafts, Blue Ridge Mountains, North Carolina, studying jewelry-making where she gained her interest with precious metals. For the next 13 years she was a silver and goldsmith making fine art jewelry, but eventually returned to painting. Currently she is the 2D technician for the division of expanded media and the division of drawing, painting and photography in the School of Art & Design, NYS College of Ceramics at Alfred University. Deluca is a '04 graduate who earned a bachelor of arts degree in fine arts. She is an artist from Buffalo and in April 2007 she was selected to exhibit in a biennial Buffalo art event called "Beyond/In Western, NY."